November 1, 2019

TO: SJRCS Students & their Families

FROM: SJRCS Student Council & Mrs. Ballenger

RE: “Our Veterans Are Stars”

For many years, SJRCS has marked the month of November in our front windows with stars that honor our Veterans. Veterans Day will be observed on Monday, November 11, 2019. Each year, the president of the United States signs a proclamation declaring November Military Family Month, a time our nation will honor the commitment and sacrifices made by the families of our nation’s service members.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DECORATE A STAR IN HONOR OF A VETERAN

We are asking each SJRCS family, in honor of our Veterans living and deceased, to decorate at least one star in honor of a Veteran in their family or community. If you would like to decorate more than one star, that would be awesome! RED Stars will be used to honor living, retired and former military personnel; WHITE Stars will be used to honor DECEASED military personnel; and BLUE Stars will be used to honor ACTIVE MILITARY personnel. Attached are RED, WHITE and BLUE Star templates for your use in decorating. Please include the Veteran’s name and branch of service, and please also indicate your students name/class on the back if you would like your STAR returned. Please cut the star shape out after decorating and send STARS back to school to the attention of Mrs. Ballenger, any time between November 4th and November 8th.

IS SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY?

If someone in your family is on active duty, please send a digital photo to Mrs. Smith (ksmith@sjscs.org) with their name, branch of service, and rank. If they are an SJRCS alum, please include their graduation year.

Did You Know

The tradition of placing a STAR in the window dates back to World War I. In 1917 Army Captain Robert L. Queissner designed and patented a simple flag with a blue star to reflect the World War I service of two sons. The appeal of this flag quickly caught on. When World War I began claiming the lives of many young Americans, a new flag developed. When a son was killed in action a GOLD star was sewn over the blue one, completely covering it.
"Our Veterans Are Stars"

Have students label these stars with the name and service branch of each veteran. They may also want to decorate these stars with photographs or other images. These can be displayed at school and/or given to veterans to take home as a memento from Take a Veteran to School Day.

(Many thanks to Timothy Gallo and Cider Mill School in Wilton, Connecticut for sharing this creative idea and many more helpful hints for Take a Veteran to School Day!)